

1. *Isomerida albicollis*, Castelnau.

Hemilophus albicollis, Laporte de Castelnau, Animaux articulés, ii. p. 488.

I. elongata, linearis, postice paulo angustata, tenuiter setosa; capite thoraceque rufo-testaceis, cano interdum dense tomentosus; elytris punctatis, interstitiis duobus elevatis, apice truncatis, rufo-testaceis plus minusve fuliginosis, vel totis nigris; abdomine nigro, segmentis tertio et quarto dense cano tomentosus; antennis nigris, articulis basi testaceis. Long. $4\frac{1}{2}$ – $5\frac{1}{2}$ lin. ♂ ♀.

This common species is very variable in its coloration, and there is only a small proportion of examples which exhibit the white hue of the thorax, and these only in the dried state; in life, the thorax is always red. The truncature of the elytra is straight and offers a short tooth at the exterior angles.

It is found on the leaves of trees, and is a common and generally distributed insect throughout the Amazonian forests.

2. *Isomerida ruficornis*, n. sp.

I. robustior, elongata, linearis, postice haud angustata, tenuiter setosa, nigra; capite, thorace, antennis (apice exceptis) et pedibus (femoribus supra exceptis) rufis; elytris apice truncatis, angulis externis dentatis; abdomine segmentis tertio et quarto dense cano tomentosus. Long. 6 lin. ♂.

Head entirely red, depressed between the eyes. Antennæ stout, as long as the body, finely fringed beneath; third joint one-third longer than the fourth, the following becoming very gradually shorter; red, with the three apical joints tinged in the middle with dusky. Thorax thinly clothed with pale silky tomentum, visible only in certain lights; red, prosternum and circuit of the acetabula blackish. Scutellum black. Elytra slightly dilated a little before the apex, the latter straightly truncated, with the outer angles slightly produced; surface punctured, and marked with one faintly raised line besides the lateral carina; deep black, shining. Breast and abdomen black; third and fourth ventral segments densely clothed with pale silky tomentum. Legs red, upper side of femora black.

Fonte Boa, Upper Amazons.

[To be continued.]

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Our Reptiles: a plain and easy Account of the Lizards, Snakes, Newts, Toads, Frogs, and Tortoises indigenous to Great Britain.
By M. C. COOKE. 12mo. London: Hardwicke, 1865.

ALTHOUGH the number of our British reptiles, even if we include the Batrachia among them, is very small, there is perhaps no other class of animals so generally misunderstood by the public at large.

The undoubtedly venomous qualities of some snakes, coupled perhaps with the peculiarly insidious, gliding movements of all the Ophidiaus, have given the whole of those remarkable reptiles a bad name, which, as in the case of the proverbial dog, is very nearly equivalent to hanging; and this has been extended by popular prejudice to all reptiles, which accordingly lie under a sort of ban in the imaginations of the ignorant, and not unfrequently suffer persecution in consequence.

In the little volume now before us, Mr. Cooke has manfully done battle in behalf of this much maligned class of animals, showing, what indeed is well enough known to naturalists, that of all our British reptiles the common viper is the only one that has the slightest claim to the possession of those redoubtable poisoned weapons which render many of the exotic species so formidable; whilst of the others the toad alone can be charged, with some show of reason, with producing injurious effects by means of the acrid secretion of the surface of its body, when this is applied to wounds in the skin. All the rest are harmless, and, as Mr. Cooke well shows, often highly interesting in their habits and mode of life; and he has certainly done good service in the popularizing of natural history, by producing so pleasant and instructive an account of our native members of a class so generally regarded with unmixed aversion.

After a short account of the general characteristics of reptiles, and of the singular superstitions connected with what are called snake-stones, Mr. Cooke describes the British species of the class in systematic order, commencing, however, with the Lizards, and placing the Chelonians in a supplementary chapter, as being only occasional visitors to our coasts. Among the true reptiles we find two additions to our list,—one the Smooth Snake (*Coronella levis*), the claim of which to be regarded as a British reptile may now be considered settled; the other the Green or Guernsey Lizard (*Lacerta viridis*), the introduction of which does not appear to rest on such good evidence. The Edible Frog also makes its appearance in the list, but evidently, even in the author's opinion, as a very doubtful native; and the additions to the limited series of British reptiles are concluded by Dr. Gray's Banded Newt (*Ommatotriton vittatus*, Gray), the distinctness of which from the other British Newts is shown by means of woodcut outlines of the skulls of all the four species, copied from the memoir of Dugès. After all, the total number of species cited, including the two Chelonians, is only seventeen.

These are all well described, and respectably figured on the eleven plates with which the book is illustrated; woodcuts are also given of the heads of the various snakes and lizards, and of the tadpoles, and some details of the Batrachians. The accounts of the habits of the different species are given in a pleasing style, not disfigured by that affectation of slang which some writers appear to consider indispensably necessary in a popular work on natural history. An appendix contains a synonymic list of the species, and the whole work forms a most convenient handbook of the subject on which it treats.